FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VIDELA VIEWS DOMESTIC SCENE, RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

LD2011417 Madrid YA in Spanish 25 Apr 79 p 7 LD

[Special correspondent's interview with President Jorge Rafael Videla--date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, how would you summarize your government's performance over the 3 years it has been in office?

[Answer] To understand and evaluate all dimensions of the government's performance over its 3 years in office, it is vital to take into account, if only sketchily, the situation prevailing on 24 March 1976. At that time the country was experiencing the most serious crisis in its history. Indeed, total economic confusion, with inflation nearing four figures, was accompanied by social disorder, complete insecurity of persons and property, corruption and the criminal activities of terrorists, who every day claimed innocent victims from all sectors of society. On top of this, there was an alarming vacuum in the government, which was therefore totally powerless to deal with events.

Today this situation has been completely reversed. Real order--but a free and creative order--reigns in the republic. The judiciary has recovered its full independence. After virtually halting payments, we have gone on to achieve the highest level of reserves in living memory and our foreign trade has reached record figures. Inflation--which still persists--has been cut to less than one-fifth of what it was. The economy in general is moving dynamically from a phase of pure speculation to a context of productivity, at a definite growth rate. As for terrorism,, the joint campaign by the people and government has succeeded in eradicating it completely, and today there are only residual manifestations of very slight significance.

In short, the balance shows, fully and emphatically, favorable results in all areas of national activity. In a sense, it is practically a different country compared with the one we took over 3 years ago.

But where the changes are most noticeable--apart from the material success--is on the moral front. Dejection and skepticism are no longer rife; people now live in expectation of progress and change and the country, as I have pointed out on previous occasions, is on its feet and is moving toward its objectives, the main one being the establishment of an authentic pluralist democracy, completely free of the distortions of demagogy and totalitarianism.

[Question] For a long time law and order difficulties imposed a heavy burden on the country's institutions. What can you tell us about the effects of this?

[Answer] The terrorist assault against Argentine society began at the start of the seventies, although there were less important manifestations of it in earlier years. It is clear that this formed part of a concerted campaign at international level. Our country was chosen because of its geopolitical, historical, cultural and economic importance. We then experienced a period of violence, crime and outrage. Former presidents of the republic, intellectuals, politicians, students, workers, soldiers, policemen, housewives and even young children fell victim to the murderous fury of the terrorist gangs.

Faced with such a situation, which threatened the very foundations of civilized existence, the joint campaign by government and people since 24 March 1976 has, not without a great deal of effort and sacrifice, eradicated this grave scourge. It was--it must be said--a resolute and unflagging struggle, but it ended in a victory for truth, reason, commonsense and full safeguards for public security.

Initially we Argentines were alone in this struggle and largely misunderstood by some sectors of international opinion. This was due to a large extent to misinformation, as well as to deliberate actions by terrorists in various European countries. Today, when the problem is unfortunately arising in all its harshness in other latitudes, we are beginning to enjoy the understanding we lacked before.

[Question] What value do you place on dialog with the various sectors of people?

[Answer] We look on dialog as the appropriate--and irreplaceable--instrument for relations between the government and the different sectors of national life. Only through easy and permanent communications, in areas of both agreement and disagreement, can the solutions the country requires at this decisive stage of its history be found. Thus from the very first the process of national reorganization has issued an emphatic call to all citizens to achieve, by means of concerted and joint efforts, the objectives that would make it possible to institute a true and complete pluralist democracy.

We are talking of a frank and realistic dialog, open to all the citizens' worries, from which only corrupt and subversive elements are excluded--a dialog in short, revolving around the free expression of ideas and mutual respect.

[Question] In general, what prospects do you see for 1979?

[Answer] These prospects are developing in a broad spectrum that covers the whole field of national activity.

In the political field we want to express in more concrete terms our proposal to all citizens to achieve, through civilian-military cooperation, the main objectives of the process. In the economic field we will wage a determined fight against inflation and we will continue to encourage harmonious development of our agricultural and industrial potential.

In international policy we will seek an honorable and fair solution to our dispute with Chile, through the mediation of the Holy Father, and we will continue to strengthen our relations with the countries of the continent in terms of real cooperation at all levels. Likewise we will continue to assert our presence in the different world forums.

But fundamentally our concern is centered on man in the concrete sense, his needs, aspirations and rights. In this connection we will give strong impetus to the work of social, welfare and educational sectors so that in the course of 1979 sizeable achievements will materialize to the benefit of individuals and the community.

[Question] What are your impressions of Argentine international relations, especially with the countries of the River Plate basin? What are the plans for energy development on the Parana?

[Answer] Since 24 March 1976 our foreign policy has had a strong creative impetus. We give priority, obviously, to relations with countries of our own origin and destiny, but that is no obstacle to having strong and effective policies of communication and exchange with all countries.

With regard to the nations of the Plate basin, we are going through a definitely dynamic phase. Despite any temporary difficulties and delays, we are going ahead with vital plans connected not only with development of the Parana for energy purposes but also with complementing our countries' efforts and resources for their mutual benefit.

HARGUINDEGUY ADVOCATES CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

FYO41444 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2110 GMT 3 May 79 FY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 May (TELAM)--"Would it not be necessary to adapt the instrumental part of the Constitution to the realities we are now facing, conserving the essence of the Constitution and its fundamental principles, which are correct and wise?" This was asked by the minister of the interior, Maj Gen Albano Harguindeguy, during an interview granted to the "60 Minutes" program on channel 7 here.

General Harguindeguy was asked about statements concerning instrumental reforms of our Constitution that he made at noon as guest of honor at a luncheon given by the Bar Association. He said: "In answer to a concrete question, I mentioned that our Constitution, a wise one which has allowed us to live since 1853, contains a declaration of rights and duties needed to live within a democracy."

He explained that "nonetheless the Constitution, when placed in hands of men--men this country has known, men who held the leading roles in this country--has been badly used. Its instrumental part has failed, even during the last crisis, despite the fact that it includes means to overcome a situation such as the one we were experiencing. Our democracy supported by the Constitution, failed.

"Maybe it wasn't the Constitution, but the men who managed it. Since we intend to revitalize institutions in order to achieve a democracy with a republican, representative and federal form of government, the question I ask myself is: Would it not be necessary to improve and correct the instrumental part, to place in the Constitution mechanisms that would prevent men like us, fallible men, from destroying it? It could be a way to reassert the exercise of power. We could change the requirements for candidates, the qualities representatives should have."

He explained that "it would be necessary to further specify the principle of fitness for public office, since this principle, although in itself correct, is ambiguous because fitness involves a subjective opinion." He added that "if we can be more precise so we insure that only the best, the most capable men reach public office, our system will be better."

GOVERNMENT DENIES CHILE PROTESTED INCURSION

FYO40354 Paris AFP in Spanish 0238 GMT 4 May 79 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 May (AFP)--An authorized spokesman of the Argentine Foreign Ministry said tonight that the Chilean Government has not submitted any claims in relation to an alleged incursion by [Argentine] gendarmes in the southern part of that country.

The same source added that in this way the Foreign Ministry makes it clear that the alleged event, which was originally reported by the Chilean press and then by the Argentine press, was not officially claimed by the Chilean Government. The report referred to the penetration by 25 Argentine gendarmes into Chilean territory last week near Puerto Natales, and said that when the gendarmes left the area they took 200 head of cattle that belonged to Chilean settlers.

It was also reported that Chilean Ambassador Sergio Onofre Jarpa Reyes had submitted a letter of protest from his government, but the existence of this note in the Foreign Ministry has not been proven.

BEAGLE CHANNEL TALKS BEGIN IN VATICAN CITY

FY041722 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1605 GMT 4 May 79 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 May (NA)--The Foreign Ministry has reported that "at 1030 this morning Rome time meetings officially opened on the Holy See's mediation between the Republic of Argentina and the Republic of Chile in their disagreement over the southern region." The meeting was held at Pius IV House, where the negotiations will routinely be held, and after a mass celebrated by Cardinal Antonio Samore there was a meeting "during which some points of common interest were agreed on."

The report adds that in accordance with the first document signed in Montevideo on 8 January of this year, the two governments will inform the Holy See during the next few weeks of the nature of the disagreement and background material and points of view they believe to be of importance.

BRIEFS

MOTHER OF ARRESTED--Buenos Aires, 2 May (NA)--The group of relatives of missing and arrested persons has issued a communique reporting the disappearance of one of its members. Mrs Thelma Jara de Cabeza, mother of Gustavo Cabeza, "arrested 14 May 1976 and not seen since," presumably disappeared Monday evening or early Tuesday after leaving the Spanish Hospital, where her husband is being treated. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0121 GMT 3 May 79 FY]

POLIO VACCINATION--Buenos Aires, 3 May (NA)--Health officials affirmed that massive polio vaccination is being carried out near the southern region of the Bolivian border due to the polio outbreak in that country and said that the situation at the border is under control. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1804 GMT 3 May 79 FY]

YACYRETA CREDIT--Buenos Aires, 2 May (LATIN)--France and Austria agreed to extend the deadline for the amortization of credits granted for the construction of the Yacyreta dam. The credit, which may reach $800 million, has a 10-year grace period, plus another 10 years for amortization. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0111 GMT 3 May 79 FY]

ANTARCTIC NAVAL GROUP CHIEF--At a ceremony held abroad the icebreaker Gen San Martin this afternoon, Navy Capt Alberto M. d'Agostino took over his new post as chief of the Antarctic Naval Group, replacing Capt Alberto Casellas. [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 30 Apr 79 p 5 FY]

SILES SALINAS WITHDRAWS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

FYD41445 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 May 79 FY

[Excerpts] Veteran politician Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas has decided to give lectures in the United States instead of running for the presidency in the forthcoming July elections. His top aides have submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the National Electoral Court stating that Siles Salinas is no longer a presidential candidate for the front called the Leftist Movement for Social Progress, that the Offensive of the Democratic Left [OID] is no longer a part of the front, and that it has therefore not signed any contract whatever with the Comptroller's Office. In any case, those who signed the memorandum, Siles Salinas, [Reynando Bolegas] and [Jaime Gonzales], authorize those who remain in the front to use its symbols and color, except [words indistinct] for obvious reasons.

The signers of the memorandum say that at 1030 yesterday lawyer Siles Salinas irrevocably and finally declined his nomination before representatives of the Aponte sector of the Socialist Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Alderete sector of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left. It was also announced that the OID has now resumed full and complete freedom of action and considers itself free of all commitments to the three parties mentioned.

Radio Panamericana news has learned that Siles Salinas ['intends] to give special lectures in the United States and that he cannot participate in the general elections for that reason. He also said he will leave in the second half of May and will be gone for a long time. OID spokesmen confirmed the report and expressed regret at the withdrawal of the veteran politician. Siles Salinas' decision has also led to the withdrawal of Guillermo Aponte Barela, his running mate for the vice presidency.

BOLIVIA, PERU AGREE TO RESTORE BORDER MARKERS

FYD41454 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 May 79 FY

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Raul Botelho Gosalves and the Peruvian ambassador to Bolivia, Manuel Augusto Roca Dela, have exchanged notes by which border markers 41, 42 and 43 are to be restored in the Pararan region in the extreme north of Bolivia. The binational documents also stipulate the implementation of [words indistinct] works in the border region in order to mark the division of territories of the two countries with a geodetic line.

The signing and exchange of the notes took place at the Foreign Ministry and was attended by ministry officials and Peruvian Embassy officials. The minutes of the second meeting of the joint Bolivian-Peruvian work group held in Lim beginning on 16 February have thus been confirmed. That meeting recommended the restoration and identification of the markers on the Bolivian-Peruvian border.

SAO PAULO TRANSPORTATION WORKERS RETURN TO JOBS

FF051832 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 May 79 FF

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo Mayor Olavo Setubal regarded as a victory for commonsense the decision made by the striking busdrivers and conductors to return to work. Great philosophies or ideas are of no value if they are not based on commonsense, he said.

This decision was not, however, entirely valid for the strikers, who continued to be dissatisfied with the proposal to negotiate wages in 45 days. Many of them could not explain why they returned to work even before the special assembly decided to accept the mayor's proposal. Some contended that they returned to work because of the many buses that were already moving yesterday. In fact, approximately 40 percent of the private buses were in service yesterday morning, and the transportation system returned virtually to normal in the afternoon.

240 Arrests

FF041801 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1345 GMT 4 May 79 FF

[Text] Approximately 240 persons have already been arrested by the Sao Paulo DEOPS during the past 2 days of the strike of busdrivers and conductors. New arrests were made this morning by civilian and military police, who are patrolling the streets trying to thwart the action by pickets.

Despite the incidents, the city is rather calm today as strong rains are helping to tie up the enormous traffic due to the excess of cars on the streets. According to a Sao Paulo radio report, a good percentage of drivers are returning to work, and the number is expected to increase this afternoon.

Santos Port Truckers

FF051853 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 May 79 p 27 FF

[Excerpts] Approximately 800 independent drivers of dump trucks, of the total 1,000 drivers who work in the port of Santos hauling fertilizer, went on strike yesterday to demand a 40-percent increase in the cost of haulage.

The hauling of grain was virtually paralyzed yesterday both inside Santos port and in the Coinceicaozinha fertilizer terminal.

ABC Strike Warning

FF051945 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 May 79 FF

[Text] No new proposal was presented at the meeting yesterday between representatives of steelworkers and enterprises of the ABC region. Radio Bandeirantes talked with Federal Deputy Benedito Marcilio, former president of the Santo Andre steelworkers union: [begin recording]

[Question] Deputy, what are the prospects for the talks?

[Answer] If no proposal is made by 13 May the workers will of course be relieved of any commitment to both the government and to the employers. The course of action to be taken will then be decided at a general assembly. Both the government and the

employers, as members of the tripartite committee, will certainly be held responsible for the positions the workers may assume, because I have no doubt that the workers will resume the strike if no specific proposal is made.

[Question] Deputy, what do you think about the application of the national security law to instigators of strikes?

[Answer] Your question relates to a matter that ought to be made quite clear to the workers. We are aware of the agreement signed between the Justice Ministry and the Sao Paulo State Government whereby the latter will be in charge of repressing strike movements in our state. I have no doubt that the workers of our state especially the ABC region, are aware of their responsibility as workers and that they will in no way passively accept a flat 'no' from their employers. Let the businessmen beware that they are completely wrong if they believe that by threats they can persuade the workers not to resume the strike. The workers are aware of their responsibility as heads of families. To tell the truth, we are waging a struggle to obtain gains, and each worker must carry on this struggle to its ultimate conclusion. [end recording]

MINISTERS OUTLINE STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH STRIKES

PY051756 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 May 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia--The federal government believes that in view of the power delegated to the Sao Paulo state police to enforce the national security law, there is no need for any federal intervention to control possible excesses. This conclusion was reached by the ministers of justice, labor and social communications at a meeting held here yesterday to discuss the Sao Paulo strikes.

The Justice Ministry spokesman reported that ministers Portella, Macedo and Farhat outlined the following strategy to prevent new strikes: State government officials should take care of strikes, and the federal government will intervene only after the respective governors and mayors have exhausted every alternative available to them.

BRIEFS

URANIUM RESERVES--Brazil's uranium reserves have increased from 142,000 tons to 195,800 tons due to the discovery of a new deposit in Itatiaia, Ceara State, which has proven reserves of 122,500 tons, more than half the country's known reserves. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Apr 79 p 39 PY]

ANGOLA PETROLEUM--Angolan Petroleum Minister Jorge de Morais, who is visiting Brazil, has announced an agreement with Brazil for the sale of 15,000 barrels of petroleum daily. The agreement will be confirmed on 9 May in Rio de Janeiro. On that day a decision will also be made regarding the participation of BRASPETRO in petroleum exploration on the Angolan continental shelf. [Text] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 May 79 PY]

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION--Brazilian Transport Minister Eliseu Resende said yesterday that construction of the steel sector railroad will be resumed in 45- This will consume 7 percent of the 4.3-billion-cruzeiro budget of the Transport Ministry, thus reducing the development of nonpriority projects. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 May 79 p 21 PY]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CHINESE ANNOUNCED

FBIS0327 Paris AFP in Spanish 2303 GMT 4 May 79 FT

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 4 May (AFP)--Chile and the PRC have agreed to establish a mechanism for cooperation in the fields of transport, communications and trade.

Chilean Economy Minister Roberto Kelly, who visited China for 2 weeks in April, reported that a mixed mission for cooperation will be established in Santiago next month. In order to implement this objective, a PRC mission will arrive in this capital in June, the minister added.

Kelly also indicated that Chile may increase its sales to the PRC, mainly copper and cellulose, and he confirmed that the Chinese Government is interested in exploring the prospects the natural resources of the Antarctic offer.

NO VIOLATION OF BORDER BY ARGENTINE OFFICERS

FBIS1425 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 79 FT

[Excerpt] A new problem has emerged involving Argentine military officers. Three Argentine officers in civilian clothing tried to enter Chilean territory through a pass in northern Chile. The officers were in a pickup truck with Tucuman plates, and were returned to their country by a Chilean police patrol.

Chilean officials said this measure was adopted because the Argentine officers' papers were not in order, including papers to permit the vehicle to cross. Officials said the officers, who were traveling as tourists, were intercepted at the [words indistinct] traffic control point, 12 km from the border, which is the vehicle control station at the (Chupanpa) Pass on the way to Antofagasta. Police spokesmen also stated that, contrary to previous reports, there was no violation of Chilean territory in this incident.

17 PERSONS ARRESTED ON 1 MAY RELEASED

FBIS0030 Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1645 GMT 5 May 79 FT

[Text] Sa[illegible]go--Judge Hernan Cereceda has ordered the release of 16 men and 1 woman, after int[illegible]ating them on the events that took place here on 1 May. He ordered the re-lease of [illegible]a Gajardo Enriquez] and of 16 men, who were all taken back to jail to com-plete the [illegible]red paperwork for their release.

Maj (H[illegible]teros) this morning worked at the office of the military prosecutor on the cas[illegible]./ persons charged by the interior ministry with assaulting police personnel.

Ministry Report

FBIS2126 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 79 FT

[Excerpts] The Interior Ministry released a report this morning on the situation of the demonstrators arrested on May Day. [Words indistinct] only 49 of the arrested are workers, which proves the political nature of the demonstration and the failure of those who tried to mobilize the workers.

Of a total of 305 persons arrested for street disorders, 87 have been released because they were under 18 and the government has pressed charges against 278 persons for vio-lating the interior security law.

The official communique released this morning by the Interior Ministry also states that 17 persons have been put at the disposal of military justice for assaulting policemen.

The communique states: With regard to the persons arrested on May Day for creating disorder, the list of which was released by the Social Communications Office, the Interior Ministry believes it useful to report to the public that of a total of 365 arrests, 163 were students, 89 were professionals, 9 were housewives, 26 [words indistinct], 29 were self-employed and only 49 were workers. Charges have been submitted against 278 persons for violating the interior security law [words indistinct] put at the disposal of military justice. The others were released. [words indistinct] disorders promoted by some well-identified union groups experienced a total failure in their objective to mobilize the Chilean workers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS ON CHILEANS RELOCATED ABROAD

FF051947 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 May 79 FF

[Excerpts] The ICEM [Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration] has relocated more than 19,000 persons abroad. Among these were those arrested under the state of seige, charged under the national security law, former prisoners and those seeking asylum. This was one of the main tasks performed by the committee, which has been directed for the past 7 years by Argentine sociologist Roberto Kozak. Kozak, who will leave for Geneva this weekend, gave a summary of the tasks performed in Chile by this organization.

[Begin Kozak recording] Since 6 October 1973 the ICEM transferred 19,000 Chileans to over 40 countries. This is an unprecedented experience because it is the first time an international organization has negotiated and reached accords with a government to allow imprisoned citizens of this country to recover their freedom by going abroad. These accords, which benefited arrested and sentenced citizens, were implemented in December 1974 and May 1975. [end recording]

Kozak indicated that as a result of these accords, and other measures implemented by the government, of the 5,000 prisoners who could leave the country, only 67 were left by April 1978, and of these 67 only 30 remain in prison and their status will be resolved as soon as their sentences are issued.

As for the number of Chileans who went abroad when their imprisonment sentences were commuted to exile, Kozak said they number 11,0811. Within the ICEM program, Sweden received the most Chileans, a total of 2,688. He indicated that the position of Chileans who want to return is up to the appropriate authorities. He said, however, that the ICEM is ready to cooperate as much as possible.

LEADERS ASK TURBAY FOR BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY

PA041452 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0024 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 May (LATIN)--High-ranking Colombian political leaders proposed to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today that he undertake a bipartisan foreign policy so that domestic disagreements will not affect it. National leaders of the Liberal and Conservative parties--the country's most important ones--who make up the Foreign Relations Advisory Committee, approved a resolution in this regard which they delivered to Turbay Ayala at San Carlos Palace today.

Former presidents Lopez Michelsen, Liberal, and Pastrana Borrero, Conservative and leader of the party faction known as Ospina-Pastranism, and former Conservative presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, leader of the faction known as Alvarism, signed the resolution, along with the three other members of the committee. The committee will advise the president on foreign affairs. Its function is exclusively consultative.

Turbay Ayala, a liberal who was elected in June 1978, governs with the two traditional parties. The committee's proposal indicated that it is in the nation's interest to present a united front in the field of foreign relations so domestic disagreements will not affect Colombia's legitimate interests beyond our borders.

TWO SOLDIERS KILLED IN GUERRILLA AMBUSH

PA061837 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2306 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 5 May (EFE)--Military sources revealed today, Saturday, that two soldiers died Friday in a clash with guerrillas in Alto (?Simana) in northern Colombia. The sources said that the clash occurred when guerrillas ambushed an army patrol of 15 soldiers and two officers.

On Thursday another guerrilla squad carried out an attack in Cauca Department, killing a police commander and kidnaping two policemen.

Terrorist Attempts

PA052132 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1738 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 5 May (EFE)--In the past few hours Colombian military intelligence [illegible] have foiled several urban guerrilla operations planned for Bogota and five other [illegible] cities. The military action against the guerrillas was based on information found in [illegible] books of several rebel leaders arrested a few weeks ago.

It was reported today, Saturday, in military circles that one of the aborted operations was to have been directed against the French Embassy in Bogota. An army intelligence spokesman told EFE that last Friday the military security department confiscated 200 sticks of dynamite and over 4 rolls of fuses from an urban guerrilla group. In the blow staged against an urban cell of the Pedro Leon Arboleda [FLA] guerrilla organization, intelligence services also (?arrested) subversive elements and confiscated plans for urban operations to be staged in Bogota and five other major cities.

The latest action by the Marxist-oriented FLA occurred early this week in Bogota when the offices of an airline were occupied; money and office equipment were stolen and subversive slogans on the urban struggle being waged by Colombian extremist movements were painted on the walls. The offensive against the guerrilla groups began after the spectacular theft of dynamite by the 19 April Movement (M-19) from a Pereira coal mine in Risaralda. The operation was intensified after an armed man entered the French Embassy in Bogota and, after asking for political asylum, tried to blow up the building with a powerful dynamite charge. "The man, about 30 years old, was armed, nervous and at times thoughtful, but determined to do anything," an embassy official told EFE.

Other sources confirmed the terrorist carried a bag containing a powerful time bomb with which he tried to blow up the building, located near the heavily settled National Park, almost in the center of Bogota. "The bomb contained nine sticks of dynamite and was in a duffel bag," said a source from the Secret Police (F-2) bomb squad. It was in the French Embassy that Marco Cantonio Velandia, a guerrilla who took part in the murder of Jose Raquel Mercado, president of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CTC)--which was attributed to the 19 April movement (M-19) in 1976--took asylum. Last Thursday Colombian Government Minister German Zea Hernandez disclosed the existence of a conspiracy against the democratic institutions by extremist and propaganda organizations.

FARC Attack on Town

PA041630 Paris AFP in Spanish 0117 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 May (AFP)--The Defense Ministry has reported that a policeman was killed and four others were kidnaped by guerrillas who staged an attack on a village in southwest Colombia. Some 80 guerrillas belonging to the Fourth Front of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) occupied the small town of Huisito, Cauca Department, some 100 km from Bogota, for 6 hours.

Commissioned Officer Eduardo Lopez, commander of the local police station, was killed in the clash with the guerrillas, and four other policemen are missing. The police station was partly destroyed by the guerrillas, who stole the policemen's weapons and equipment. The guerrillas also looted several stores, taking drugs, food and other articles. They fled after they harangued the residents of Huisito over police loudspeakers.

The Defense Ministry bulletin added that soldiers immediately pursued the guerrillas.

M-19 Explosives Theft

PA050406 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0201 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] Pereira, Colombia, 4 May (EFE)--Police sources revealed here today that the M-19 urban guerrilla movement stole a large quantity of dynamite from the coal mines in the town of Quinchia, in Colombia's Risaralda Department.

A spokesman for the Mounted Police said the guerrillas, armed with machineguns, subdued miners and carried away 300 kg of dynamite in campers.

The guerrillas left leaflets at the site with slogans referring to violations of human rights of members of extremist organizations who are under arrest in Bogota.

GOVERNMENT DISCLOSES DETAILS OF NEW LABOR LAW

FTO41736 Paris AFP in Spanish 1358 GMT 4 May 79 FY

[Text] Montevideo, 4 May (AFP)--A labor law that will regulate all labor-management activities in Uruguay was disclosed here today by official sources. Presenting it, Labor and Social Security Minister, Jose Etcheverry reported that the text had been delivered to the unions so they may make suggestion within 30 days, after which the law will go into effect.

The law regulates the organization of unions and qualifications of their members, who should be Uruguayan citizens or be legal residents, and requires that their leaders make a declaration of democratic faith. This declaration is required for holding public office. In it, the individual states that he is not affiliated with foreign political parties (especially communist ones) and will support the present government regime.

According to the law, union members are free to enter and leave the group, but this will be done according to democratic and legal rules. No reference to politics, religion or profit will be permitted. Plebiscites will be conducted through secret and compulsory voting. Anyone who does not vote will be suspended from membership for 1 year. Unions will be able to join international organizations and their assembly decisions are to be adopted by a minimum of 30 percent of their members.

Finally, Minister Etcheverry revealed that the law has been submitted to the International Labor Organization. He pointed out that a lack of regulation in the past resulted in unions acting with political goals and even supporting subversion.

INTERIOR MINISTER URGES CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

FTO41744 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1205 GMT 4 May 79 FY

[Text] Montevideo, 4 May (LATIN)--The interior minister, Gen Manuel Nunez, has said that Uruguayan citizens should have confidence in the current process and that the leaders "have no personal aspirations." The general made these remarks in Maldonado yesterday duri the 22d meeting of police chiefs of the country.

The minister, referring to the men who make up the civilian-military government headed by President Aparicio Mendez, told the nation to have confidence in the government because "none of the leaders who began this process have remained at their posts." General Nunez said that "the institutions are carrying out this process" and that "as an Uruguayan I must tell you that the government is part of the people, knows all their problems, is searching for solutions and will make every effort to make Uruguay, now and in the future, a better country than it was in the last decade."

The process of return to institutionality announced by the government of President Mendez includes a plebiscite for a new constitution in 1981 and a call for elections with a single candidate after an agreement between the traditional parties (Blanco and Colorado) and the approval of the armed forces.

ENERGY MINISTER TO TOUR ARAB OPEC COUNTRIES

PA041836 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] A discussion of the prices of petroleum has not been dismissed for the June meeting to be held by the OPEC in Vienna. This is the opinion of Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti, who added that OPEC ministers always have the possibility and freedom to discuss the world energy situation. Calderon Berti will leave next week to pay a courtesy visit to several OPEC member countries to tighten bilateral relations. He will go to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Algeria and Iraq. He said that his intention is to exchange viewpoints with the representatives of those countries on the world energy crisis.

TREMOR ROCKS CARACAS, SEVERAL CITIES

PA062023 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 5 May (EFE)--Radio Continente has reported that a tremor this afternoon rocked some areas of Caracas. According to the radio station, the tremor was also felt in Valencia, Maracaibo and other cities in Valera State [as received]. According to Radio Continente, the tremor registered 5 degrees on the Richter scale. It took place at 1607 [2007 GMT] and its epicenter was in the city of Santander, in northern Colombia. There has been no report of casualties or property damage.

HERRERA CHARGES FORMER REGIME 'IN TOTAL DISARRAY'

PA050046 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1856 GMT 2 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 2 May (LATIN)--President Luis Herrera Campins, who accused the former administration of having been in total disarray, urged consumers to organize themselves to fight speculation.

President Herrera Campins yesterday participated with some 200,000 people in the celebration of International Labor Day. Herrera Campins, the first president to participate in a labor day parade carrying the banner of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela (CTV) as he accompanied labor leaders, said that looking at things from inside, the former administration was in total disarray.

The former administration certainly took no precautions when it came to spending money in advance, Caracas newspapers quote President Herrera Campins as saying. Disarray is the right word, a more graphic depiction of the state of public administration as of 12 March, President Herrera Campins added.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER DEFENDS PLANE PURCHASE

PA051642 Caracas VENPRES Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 4 May (VENPRES)--Div Gen Luis Alberto Aranguren, commander of the Venezuelan Air Force, said today that the purchase of the plane for presidential use was done in accordance with the technical standards suggested by air force experts and by the proper agency, the Defense Ministry.

All the documents as well as the technical report on the plane and its operations in the country are at the disposal of the Chamber of Deputies committee which is investigating the operation and purchase of six Italian frigates, Gen Leon Aranguren added. I do not think that the congressmen have to make another visit to the air force, he said.

The presidential Boeing has made all the necessary flights here as well as some abroad, manned by air force teams who were properly trained. Its flight performances are up to the necessary standards, say observers. According to Defense Minister Div Gen Fernando Paredes Bello, his offices as well as those of the general air force and navy commanders are open to the committee to clarify both cases. Gen Leon Aranguren said that all the documents are in order. According to another source, the air force was very careful in its technical studies because the security of the chief of state was involved.

NICARAGUAN EXILES ARRIVE IN CARACAS

PA061636 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 6 May (AFP)--The official news agency VENPRES has reported that 19 Nicaraguan exiles, including several members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), arrived in Caracas this weekend. It has been reported that there are still at least 16 refugees in the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua. They are waiting for safe-conducts from the Anastasio Somoza government to leave for Caracas.

PRESIDENT DISMISSES CASES, GRANTS PARDONS TO 24

PA042227 Caracas VENPRES Diplomat Information Service in Spanish 0800 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 3 May (VENPRES)--President Luis Herrera Campins today granted dismissals and pardons to 20 soldiers and 4 civilians. Another decree granted full pardons to soldiers Jose Gustavo Curvelo and Mario Jose Franco, who are presently serving sentences. The president suspended courts-martial on charges of rebellion filed against Rodolfo Romero and Elvis Jose Resplandor Diaz, as well as for Julio Cesar Tecerra and Marilu Rojas Rangel, who were charged with rebellion and armed robbery. All the decrees granting dismissals and pardons were consigned by Defense Minister Maj Gen Fernando Paredes Bello.

Five More Pardons

PA031933 Caracas VENPRES Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 2 May (VENPRES)--The president of the republic today announced a dismissal of charges and five pardons, a Miraflores Palace spokesman has said. The presidential measure benefits Ali del Carmen Torres Dominguez (dismissal of charges) and Luis Javier Rodriguez, Jose Isaac Hernandez Carvajal, Francisco Mora Pulido, Ramon Antonio Romero Landaeta and Julio Cesar Guzman Cordero, who were pardoned.

BRIEFS

NEW MORNING TABLOID--Caracas, 2 May (AFP)--A new morning tabloid, EL DIARIO DE CARACAS, with an initial press run of 40,000 copies has appeared in this capital. The new publication claims to be free of all political, economic, labor and religious ties. According to an editorial, its goal is to briefly but clearly inform those who want to know everything but have no time to waste. The newspaper will appear every day but Mondays. Its president, Alejandro Tinoco Garcia, is a lawyer, professor of mercantile law and a diplomat. Its executive vice president and director is Argentine lawyer and journalist Rodolfo H. Terragno. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2030 GMT 2 May 79 PA]

LOPEZ PORTILLO TO MEET WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN

PA050323 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] U.S. Congressman Eldon Rudd of Arizona has stated that the U.S. Congress is very interested in Mexico. He has arrived here with a congressional delegation to meet with President Lopez Portillo. President Lopez Portillo and the U.S. congressmen will discuss three subjects of bilateral interest--undocumented persons, gas sales and, especially, scientific and technological exchange.

MEASURES AGAINST CONTRABAND OF OIL BYPRODUCTS

PA041520 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2052 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 3 May (LATIN)--It has been officially reported that the government ordered the intensification of vigilance on the border with the United States to prevent the illegal exportation of petroleum byproducts due to the significant difference in prices in the two countries. According to a press bulletin of the state-owned Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX), Mexico has suffered losses of more than $500,000 a day during certain periods of the year as a result of the illegal trafficking of these products.

OPPOSITION TO EXCHANGE OF OIL FOR CORN

PA061749 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 6 May (AFP)--Several sectors here today were strongly opposed to President Jimmy Carter's proposal to exchange Mexican oil for U.S. corn. The National Peasants Confederation (CNC), an organization which is pro-government, says that Mexico does not need to make that exchange, which would create a dependency on foodstuffs, because a big crop is expected for next year, enough to meet the country's needs. On the other hand, Francisco Merino Rabago, agriculture and hydraulic resources secretary, has discarded the corn for oil exchange, indicating that by 1979 Mexico will be self-sufficient.

PEMEX WILL NOT ACCEPT FOREIGN PARTNERS

PA051454 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2357 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 4 May (EFE)--The state-owned Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] affirmed today in this capital that Mexico will not accept foreign partners in the exploitation of oil. In a conference on investments and joint investments in which European businessmen are participating, Jose Luis Garcia, PEMEX's manager for petrochemical development, noted that PEMEX will not accept any requests of this kind.

"It is very clear that the natural resources belong to all the people of Mexico," Garcia stated after listening to statements made by French investors. The PEMEX leader said that the only way in which foreigners can participate in Mexico's oil exploitation is through "adequate loans and well planned financing."

BRIEFS

OIL PORT PROJECT--Tabasco State Governor Leandro Rovirosa Guades has said that land is being purchased to build the country's most important oil port in Dos Bocas. He added that the construction of the Tabasco No 1 petrochemical complex is about to start. It will be one of the nation's largest complexes. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

PRESIDENT ARISTIDES ROYO ARRIVES IN ROME

For Italian and Panamanian reportage on the official visit of President Royo to Italy, see the Italy and the Vatican section of the 7 May and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

FRENCH, BELGIAN BANKERS AGREE TO LOANS

PA061319 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 6 May 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Bankers in France and Belgium have agreed to grant loans to Panama of from 110-115 million balboas at an interest rate of one percent, the result of contacts made by President Aristides Royo and his entourage during their current European tour. To leave shortly for those countries to complete the financial arrangements is Treasury Minister Ernesto Perez Balladares.

STUDENTS DENY PARTICIPATION IN ACTS OF VANDALISM

PA051800 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Statement by National Institute student Miriam Jaen, National Institute Federated Association secretary--recorded]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, we conducted another demonstration and, on our way to the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, we noticed that persons who did not belong to our school were infiltrating our ranks and urging our fellow students to start throwing rocks. They began throwing stones but then disappeared leaving a state of confusion among the students. We disapprove of any violent act and are opposed to vandalism. We are not thugs or urban guerrillas. Students from the National Institute have always been prudent and disciplined both in the classroom and in the street. We are disturbed by the names we have been called because of yesterday's incidents. However, we realize that the struggle against the high cost of living must continue. This is a struggle that cannot stop until our school and the people get all the things they need. We know that these provocations were planned and carried out for some special reason. Today, we see that the Education Ministry is threatening to shut down the National Institute if the students go out into the streets again. We have been told that the National Guard will be called out to stop us. We are telling the members of the National Guard not to participate in repressing their own children. We know that the persons who infiltrated the students movement are not honest people and care nothing about the students.

Possible School Shutdown

PA051220 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Ovin Julio Miller interview with Education Vice Minister Jorge Arosemena on 4 May in Panama City--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Is there a possibility the Education Ministry may order a temporary shutdown of schools in the country because of the student demonstrations and violence?

[Answer] There is a possibility of that if demonstrations become violent and threaten the community's tranquillity and security. This is an alternative that the ministry could resort to. It could shut down some schools and, if the demonstrations became generalized, we would have to shut down all schools. However, this would be the last measure to which the ministry would resort.

COSTA RICA

$15 MILLION OWED BY NICARAGUAN IMPORTERS

PA0520Z7 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 5 May (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan industrialists owe Costa Rican businessmen a total of $15 million for purchases unpaid because of the economic problems Nicaragua is now experiencing. Economy Minister Fernando Altmann Ortiz revealed recently that the Nicaraguan market no longer exists for Costa Rica because of these problems. Business between the two countries has gone down, mainly in the purchases made by Nicaraguans, while Costa Rica continues its usual rate of raw materials purchases from Nicaragua.

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR UNCTAD CONFERENCE

PA0420O8 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican delegation to the fifth UNCTAD meeting left this morning for Manila. It is headed by Economy Minister Fernando Altmann Ortiz. Other members are Finance Vice Minister Leon Baruch; presidential adviser Jorge Cespedes; Gonzalo Fajardo, director of the promotion center; and Otto (Ciout), of the central bank. Costa Rica will make specific proposals in regard to maritime transportation, coffee and sugarcane prices as well as fuel supply.

RECOPE NEGOTIATES DIESEL FUEL PURCHASE WITH USSR

PA0622Z6 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 5 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Oil Refinery [RECOPE] is currently negotiating the purchase of diesel fuel from the Soviet Union, RECOPE Executive President Fernando Ortuno Sobrado announced. Costa Rica plans to acquire 20,000 tons of diesel from Moscow although possibilities are being studied for a permanent supply which would be paid with products from this country such as coffee. Ortuno Sobrado noted that it all depends on the price the Soviet Union sets for the fuel. The purchase is necessary because diesel consumption has increased disproportionately in Costa Rica, mainly because of an extraordinary demand in the wake of a failure of a hydroelectric complex which forced the production of energy through thermal means. The RECOPE president said that if the talks prove fruitful, the USSR will ship the diesel immediately.

BRIEFS

AID AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT--Deputy Agriculture Minister Alberto Vargas has revealed that the ministry and the Agency for International Development [AID] have signed an 8.5 million colon agreement, part of an 100 million colon loan to be used for technical assistance programs for small farmers. Some 4,000 farmers will benefit from this program. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 May 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT ADOPTS MEASURES TO FACE ENERGY CRISIS

PA0415A6 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0036 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 3 May (LATIN)--The Salvadoran Government adopted emergency measures tonight to confront the increase in petroleum prices and in anticipation of possible future increases.

Among the measures that will go into effect soon, the Economy Ministry said that fuel sales will be limited to Monday through Friday from 0500 to 2100. Transportation routes in urban areas and the country's interior will be regulated, seeking greater flow in traffic and controlling speeds on roads. Tax measures will also be adopted for the importation of high fuel-consuming vehicles. Economy Minister Roberto Ortiz Avalos said that these measures are temporary to counter any future eventuality and to achieve a considerable reduction in fuel consumption. The measures adopted by El Salvador today form part of the Central American countries' efforts to form a Latin American front of consumer nations to protect common interests.

Defense of Measures

PA051753 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0031 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--If fuel consumption and prices continue at the rate they have been going so far this year, by the end of 1979, El Salvador will reportedly have spent 300 million colones ($120 million) on oil. The estimate was made by Economy Minister Roberto Ortiz Avalos as he justified the reason for the adoption of energy-saving measures today. The official said that one should be alarmed at a $120 million oil bill because it represents what El Salvador obtains in revenue from the sale of three of its best exports--sugar, cotton and shrimp.

For his part, Economy Under Secretary Carlos Hipolito Murillo explained that in 1965 El Salvador depended on oil for 83 percent of its electric production and that the other 17 percent came from hydroelectric installations. Under Secretary Murillo said that the initial measures will be taken in order to prevent compulsory rationing of fuels and the control of car imports. He said that other actions will be taken if the call to save energy fails.

EXTREMISTS OCCUPY FRENCH, COSTA RICAN EMBASSIES

PA050341 Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 4 May (AFP)--Three cells of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) today simultaneously occupied the embassies of Costa Rica and France and the local cathedral in San Salvador. Meanwhile, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth stated that the government will maintain its refusal to negotiate with groups like the BPR, as it has done on similar occasions in the past.

The BPR members who are occupying the two embassies reiterated, during a telephone conversation with a local radio station, that they will not withdraw until their demands are met. According to reports from Costa Rica, one of the guards at the French Embassy was injured in the hip when the BPR took over the embassy. Apparently, only one of the members of the cell was armed.

Security Corps Communique

PA050417 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0338 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Security Corps today, Friday, issued an official communique stating that extreme leftist groups are trying to create international problems for the Salvadoran Government with their latest violent actions. The communique notes that at noon today, persons identified as members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) forcibly occupied the embassies of two countries with which the government and people of this republic maintain very close and friendly relations, France and Costa Rica.

The communique adds that the objective of these criminal actions, to which can be added the assassination hours later of two national police agents, is to provoke public authorities and to create international problems for the government "when the traditional relations of brotherhood between the Costa Rican and Salvadoran people have been further strengthened with the recent visit of the President of Costa Rica, Rodrigo Carazo Odio." [Another objective is] to interrupt the peace that citizens have been enjoying recently "as reflected particularly in the Labor Day celebrations when the [words indistinct] publicly spoke out freely in spite of the provocations of small subversive groups that created minor incidents." [A third objective is] to promote another international scandal to further feed the anti-Salvadoran campaign "promoted by local subversives supported by leftist organizations that operate in other countries."

BPR Communique on Demands

PA0600129 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 5 May (AFP)--Today, the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) announced the conditions that must be met if its members, who are currently occupying the French and Costa Rican embassies here, are to release their hostages and evacuate these buildings. In a communique submitted to the local office of AFP, several BPR spokesmen--currently gathered in permanent session at the offices of the General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS) with the relatives of the five political prisoners whose release they are demanding--announced the following conditions which must be met if the embassies are to be evacuated. The demands are as follows and concern both the French and Costa Rican embassies:

1. "That the government of each occupied embassy intercede on behalf of our unjustly captured and savagely tortured companions."

2. That the two governments "release the contents of this communique."

3. That they "present a report to the human rights commissions of the United Nations and the OAS, respectively, regarding the capture of our leaders, including a copy of the communique in it."

4. "That their governments guarantee the physical safety of the comrades occupying" their embassies.

[The document then demands] "the immediate suspension of repression against working people and their popular organizations; the immediate suspension of the campaign of terror and psychological warfare that have been launched against the people; an end to the military annihilation campaigns launched against people in rural areas; and an end to raids and to the control and persecution operations which are unleashed against the people through oppressive bodies and a reactionary army." The document also demands "respect for popular organizations and their members as well as for their right of free expression."

The BPR members gathered at the National University also demanded that the French and Costa Rican ambassadors be present at the negotiating table. The BPR appealed to French Ambassador Dondenne and Costa Rican Ambassador Julio Esquivel to attend the talks in order to reach an agreement. This was done despite the fact that the two men are among the hostages being held at the seized embassies.

"They are free to leave to negotiate the necessary points for the release of the hostages and the evacuation of their embassies," a BPR spokesman told this agency. Finally, the BPR admitted that the negotiations are "at a standstill" as a result of the diplomats' absence while the embassies continue to be surrounded by the army.

Negotiations Possible

WA060547 London REUTER in English 0442 GMT 6 May 79 WA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, May 6, REUTER--El Salvador's military government has announced its readiness to negotiate the release of French and Costa Rican diplomats held hostage here by leftist gunmen. President Carlos Humberto Romero in an impromptu interview with REUTERS yesterday gave an assurance that no measures would be taken to endanger the lives of the hostages, including Ambassadors Michel Dondenne and Julio Esquivel Valverde.

It was earlier thought they were holding about 30 hostages in both embassies. But Foreign Minister Rodrigues Porth told REUTERS his government was ready to negotiate the release of the hostages so long as negotiations were held with an impartial mediating team.

Status of Prisoners

PA050445 Paris AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 4 May (AFP)--An unofficial spokesman said today that two of the political prisoners whose release has been demanded by three cells of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] which have occupied the French and Costa Rican embassies and the local cathedral could obtain their freedom by paying a fine that does not exceed $15. The same source also said that Mario Knochar, BPR political training secretary, and Facundo Guardado, BPR secretary general, have been arraigned before the special police judge. This magistrate is in charge of misdemeanors such as drunkenness, lack of identification documents and so forth. This disclosure, made unofficially by government sources, was seen by observers as a step by the government to resolve the matter of the occupations without losing prestige.

Rejection of Political Asylum

PA070326 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0055 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 6 May (ACAN-EFE)--The members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) who occupied the French and Costa Rican embassies in San Salvador on Friday do not accept the political asylum offered to them, a BPR spokesman told ACAN-EFE over the telephone today. He affirmed that they did not occupy the embassies to seek asylum but to demand the release of five of their comrades including BPR Secretary General Facundo Guardado.

We accuse the French and Salvadoran governments of making arrangements between them without taking the BPR proposals into account, the spokesman said. He told ACAN-EFE that ever since they took over the embassies they had proposed a channel through which negotiations were to be carried out but this channel has not yet been used. The mechanism proposed by the BPR members is that French Ambassador George Dondenne and Costa Rican Ambassador Julio Esquivel Valverde contact a negotiating comission made up of BPR elements.

HONDURAS

MILITARYMEN FILE SUIT AGAINST LOPEZ ARELLANO

PA042048 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] A group of Honduran militarymen have filed suit against former chief of state Gen Oswaldo Lopez Arellano for $7.5 million, the newspaper LA PRENSA reports. It also revealed the trial being conducted in the common pleas court in Tegucigalpa against Lopez Arellano and three of his closest associates.

Lopez Arellano was Honduras' strongman for 14 years. He now manages many businesses, including a bank, a general investment company, two airlines and ground transportation. According to the newspaper, the plaintiffs owned shares in the firm Inversiones Generales, S.A. and the General Airservice Airline, which operates in Miami. It seems the defendants transferred the shares to their names without the endorsement of the plaintiffs as required by law.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES

FAD50423 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2334 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintana. The Foreign Ministry has announced that the minister left on a personal trip. Nonetheless, it has been rumored that Foreign Minister Quintana will stay in Washington 1 week to conduct official negotiations that might be connected with a $80 million loan that Gen Anastasio Somoza's government has requested from the International Monetary Fund.

FSLN ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON 'NEW WAR FRONT'

FAD70443 [Clandestine] Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0400 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] We report to the world that in compliance with military agreements reached by our joint national directorate, we have opened a new war front in the Nueva Guinea region, Zelaya Department. Bitter fighting has raged in this area for the past 2 days. The Somozist National Guard [has sent] many troops and reinforcements to the area.

LA PRENSA CHARGES GOVERNMENT HAS 'BLACKLIST'

FAD52042 Paris AFP in Spanish 1922 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 5 May (AFP)--The existence of a blacklist of 64 persons of the Nicaraguan opposition coalition, the FAO [Broad Opposition Front], who were to be murdered today was revealed by LA PRENSA newspaper here today. The newspaper did not reveal what its sources were for the spectacular charge. The opposition paper asserted that the list of alleged victims had already been approved by those who lead terrorist groups within Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle's government. It added that the killings were to have taken place last Tuesday, 1 May, but were postponed to today.

SANDINISTS VOW TO TRY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

FAD42050 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1650 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] A family has been machinegunned in its sleep by the National Guard. Two mothers and their six children, all minors, died. The grandparents and an uncle of a minor have also disappeared. A 9-year-old girl was also killed yesterday. In a last-minute report, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] stated that it reaffirms its oath of "free fatherland or death" under the certainty that these atrocious murders will not go unpunished and that popular justice will soon try the murderous hordes of Latin America's bloodiest dictatorship to the fullest extent of the law.

MALMIERCA MEETS WITH FINNISH PRESIDENT, PREMIER

FL042316 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli today held talks with Finland's President Urho Kekkonen and Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa. During the talks with the Finnish president, various aspects of the excellent relations between Cuba and Finland were discussed.

For his part, Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa referred to the importance of Malmierca's visit to Finland and further improvement of relations between the two countries. The Finnish premier also praised Cuba's role in the movement of nonalined countries.

Later in the day the Cuban foreign minister held a press conference in which he referred to the activities of nonalined countries and Cuba's role in the movement. Malmierca, who is paying an official visit to Finland accompanied by a Cuban delegation, tomorrow will tour the northern-most part of the country.

FRG NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS ISIDORO MALMIERCA

FL041957 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has told the West Berlin paper (DIE NEUER), that Cuba is struggling for the peaceful solution of all conflicts that may exist between the nonalined countries. The interview with the Cuban foreign minister appears on the front page of the independent biweekly, which with this edition began its daily publication.

Malmierca stated that imperialism uses all means possible to intensify the conflicts among the member countries of the nonalined movement in an attempt to divert its progressive influence from international relations. The Cuban foreign minister stated that the campaigns against the nonalined countries have different motives, but their origins are always the same. He added that the western [news] agencies, the Chinese press and other reactionary information media are the principal slanderers of the [nonalined] organization.

Malmierca added that Cuba believes in the ability of the movement to maintain its unity, which has developed over its five summit conferences. In reference to a question raised at the last Coordinating Bureau meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, the Cuban foreign minister told the West Berlin paper that all of the movement's allies, apart from the economic and social system differences, agree on a clear position in facing Fascism and apartheid.

RODRIGUEZ CALDERON PROPOSES NICARAGUA MEASURES AT UN

FL041149 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] At the UN Economic and Social Council, Cuba has called for increasing measures the community of nations has adopted and proposed to contain the massacre of the Nicaraguan people by the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship. Speaking at a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council yesterday, Cuban delegate Mirta Rodriguez Calderon said it is necessary not only to tie the genocidal hands of the dictator but also to make an additional effort so that those who are pampering the tyrant will stop it.

D'ESTEFANO ADDRESSES CYPRUS PROBLEM AT UN CONFERENCE

FL051232 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 May 79 FL

[Text] Cuba has called on the United Nations organization to demand compliance with UN resolutions on Cyprus because the situation on that island is a danger to international peace and security. In speaking at the conference on international rights in Cyprus, Cuban delegate Miguel A. d'Estefano said that the invasion and subsequent occupation by Turkey of almost 40 percent of the island's territory were illegal and violated international law. In his remarks, the president of the Cuban Association of the United Nations condemned the plans of the main Western powers to consolidate and legalize the partition of the island and turn it into a NATO base.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PDRY

FL021722 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 May 79 FL

[Text] Cuba and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] have signed in Aden an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries for a period of 5 years. The agreement was signed by Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade Marcelo Fernandez Font and PDRY Agriculture Minister Muhammad Sulayman al-Nasir. The agreement calls for continuation and expansion of Cuban assistance in many fields of the economy of that Arabian Peninsula nation.

PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH GDR TRADE UNIONS

FL051456 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1404 GMT 5 May 79 FL

[Text] A protocol on providing for the Cuban young people who are studying in the GDR has been signed by trade union leaders of the two countries in Havana City. Jesus Escandel, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] Executive Secretariat, signed the document for the Cuban side, and Gerhard Held of the Free German Trade Union Federation signed the document for his country at a ceremony held at the CTC headquarters in Havana City.

LECHUGA DESIGNATED COORDINATOR OF GROUP OF 77

FL041017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1814 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Excerpt] Cuban Ambassador Carlos Lechuga Hevia has assumed the post of coordinator of the Group of 77, which is comprised of 118 countries from Latin America, Africa and Asia. The group will hold a meeting next Tuesday to learn about the activities conducted by 24 of its members aimed at establishing contact with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The three regions' underdeveloped countries have been conducting a number of meetings to discuss the Fifth UNCTAD Conference, scheduled to open next Monday in Manila, the Philippines.

ANAP PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES AGRARIAN REFORM COMMEMORATION

FL041017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], has announced at a press conference that the main commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the first agrarian reform law will be held in La Plata, Sierra Maestra, on 17 May.

He added that the 18th ANAP anniversary and 33d anniversary of the assassination of peasant leader Niceto Perez will also be commemorated on that date, which is also Peasants Day.

Ramirez Cruz said that peasants will commemorate the date with 477 agricultural-livestock production cooperatives and 400 credit and services cooperatives created throughout the country.

DAYS OF CZECHOSLOVAK CULTURE SCHEDULED

FL041023 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] The days of Czechoslovak culture in Cuba will be a new contribution to the furthering of bilateral cultural cooperation, Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Matej Lucan has declared in Prague. Lucan made the statement to PRENSA LATINA during a farewell cocktail party hosted by Cuban Ambassador Pedro Luis Torres for the artistic and cultural delegation that will participate in the days of culture.

Lucan announced that during these days of culture, Czechoslovak art will reach several regions of Cuba, including Havana, Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Villa Clara and other provinces. He said the program includes exhibits of contemporary art, handicrafts and photographs of past and present Czechoslovak life that show the results of real socialism. The days of Czechoslovak culture, which open on 9 May, also include movies, dances, light music, operas, chamber music, pantomines, ballet and other cultural attactions.

FMC ISSUES STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH URUGUAYAN PEOPLE

FL041125 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1111 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] The Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) has released in Havana a statement of solidarity with the people of Uruguay. The FMC reports in the statement that more than 350 persons were arrested recently in Uruguay, and their whereabouts are not known. It asserts that 7,000 political prisoners--or one per 400 inhabitants--are under arbitrary arrest in Uruguayan military barracks, police stations, concentration camps, torture centers and jails.

MEXICAN DELEGATION DISCUSSES SUGAR INDUSTRY COOPERATION

FL051833 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 May 79 FL

[Text] The high-level Mexican delegation to resume Cuban-Mexican [sugar] cooperation and their Cuban counterparts have held a press conference at La Paz Hall in the Havana Libre Hotel. Lic Mario Trujillo, director of the Mexican National Sugar Commission, said that the purpose of the delegation's visit is to exchange experiences and observe the advances made by Cuba in mechanical sugarcane harvesting and some types of sugar industry technology and to see how Mexico can cooperate in this area. The delegation was received today by Comrade Guido Garcia, vice minister of the sugar industry. A program of industrial center visits includes the Urbano Noris sugarcane mill [in Holguin Province], the KTP-1 mechanical sugarcane harvester factory and the new sugarcane mill [Batalla de las Guasimas] under construction in Camaguey, among others sites.